

HB450

2/11/11

My name is Barbara Rush and I am a 30 year retired teacher from the Helena School District, I have testified before the state school board on 2 occasions and both times I felt as if my testimony didn't matter at all because decisions had been made behind the scenes. When I gave what I felt was compelling testimony about what was happening in the schools with the bullying program I found that the Human Rights Network, the ACLU and the School Boards Association had apparently already set up what was going to happen. I felt completely disenfranchised by these lobbies. The State School Board has extensive powers <sup>that</sup> can even countermand the legislature. When the legislature turned down the bullying bill that passed it through as a rule requiring the schools to do it. I believe a requirement of a vote to get on this board would at least give the public a chance for a voice and hold the members accountable to the public not just to lobbies like the Human Rights Network. I ask for a do pass on HB 450.

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